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COMIC SHOP NEWS™
TALON

A Very Talon-ted Assassin Turns Hero

Readers of ***Batman*** know that the Court of Owls is a conspiratorial organization whose potential for malevolence is unmatched. And the most deadly of all the Court of Owls' agents are the Talons, the deadly assassins who carry out the Court's deadliest duties.

But not all Talons are bad. At least one Talon has turned his back on his murderous past. His name is Calvin Rose, and he's the star of ***Talon,*** one of four new series launches in DC's New 52 Third Wave.

For readers who didn't follow the Court of Owls storyline that culminated in last spring's "Night of the Owls," ***Talon*** co-writer *James Tynion IV* (who is joined by fellow writer *Scott Snyder* and artist *Guillem March* on the new series) explained just who the Court of Owls are. "The Court of Owls is a secret society that has ruled Gotham City from the shadows for centuries. In every era, they have had a private assassin called the Talon, who silenced the Court's opponents in politics and business and helped shape Gotham City's history to suit their needs and perpetuate their power. In Gotham, they were long thought to be just an old folk tale, something parents told their children to stay in line.

"Recently the Court of Owls resurrected all of their Talons in a massive attack meant to take back Gotham City from Batman, but they were defeated and forced back into the shadows. The series ***Talon*** will pick up from after the events of 'Night of the Owls' and explore some of the lingering questions about the Court and their power."

Tynion explained how the new series ties in to the events of "Night of the Owls." "The story we're telling in ***Talon*** is definitely a logical outgrowth of the story told in ***Batman*** over the last year... In the sense that there's a lot more story to 'The Court of Owls,' things Scott never got to dig into during his run, and at the end of his story there are a lot of questions still out there," Tynion said. "Has the Court of Owls survived? What happened to the resurrected Talons who were not captured by the Bat-Family? At the end of Scott's story, there's the implication that these people are still out there—still dangerous, but they're hurting. There's still some closure to seek with them, and Calvin Rose will prove to be the perfect tool to explore the answers to these questions in the months to come."

What makes Calvin Rose different from the other Talons? "Calvin Rose is the only Talon ever to escape the Court of Owls," Tynion said. "We've seen a few different realms of circus expertise in the Talons that have appeared so far, but we haven't seen a real escape artist. With Calvin, you'll see a man whose entire function in life has always been to escape, to run... It's what he's always needed to do to save himself.

"When we jump to present day in ***Talon #1***, we'll see that he's been running for years, consistently eluding the Court. What that also means is that Calvin is totally human. He wasn't one of the Talons resurrected by the Court in 'Night of the Owls,' and has none of their regenerative abilities or inhuman strength... or resistance to pain."

In some ways, Talon seems like an obverse version of Azrael—a character with many elements in common with Batman, connected to a secret group to which he no longer swears allegiance. Is the comparison at all valid, or is there much more going on here than that? "I can definitely see the comparison," Tynion replied, "And it's true that Calvin fills a similar role in the Batman titles, but I think when it comes down to the characters themselves with their distinct ideologies and personalities, there's not going to be much that ties them together. I didn't even make the connection until I saw people point it out online after the series was announced.

"Ultimately, I think if you're the kind of person who loved Azrael and his role in the Bat-Mythos, you're going to *really* enjoy reading Talon's exploits—not because the characters are the same, but because you like digging a little deeper into the mythology behind some awesome Batman concepts from a new and different perspective."

Since ***Talon*** is launching with its zero issue, there is no series history to explore. What approach are Tynion and Snyder taking with ***Talon #0***, and how will it relate to October's #1? "The zero issue is going to take place five years ago, during Calvin's time on the run from The Court of Owls," Tynion said. "We'll hear about Calvin, and learn about his break from the Court's influence, and how he's survived, eluding them for so long.

"***Talon #1*** picks up Calvin's story in present day as he returns to Gotham for the first time since his days as a Talon to investigate the aftermath of Scott's story in ***Batman.***"

Will the Court of Owls remain the central villains in Calvin's life, or will he move beyond them to other challenges? "The Court of Owls definitely have a large part to play in this story, at least for the first few arcs," Tynion explained, "but we'll be introducing a main nemesis for Calvin in ***Talon*** #2. This guy has a history with the Court, but things are going to get personal between him and Calvin pretty quick. There are other surprises coming down the way as well, that will create new enemies for Calvin, but those will be easier to talk about a few months down the line."

Will Calvin Rose become a mainstream hero in his own right at some point, or will he always be a hero in the shadows? Does have the potential to become a team player somewhere down the line? "One of my real goals with this series is to create a cast of characters who have legs far beyond Gotham City," Tynion said. "I'm not sure that Talon's going to be jumping on the Justice League roster any time soon, he's definitely a guy who's more comfortable out of the spotlight. But heck, if there is a Black-Ops Justice League team a few years down the line, maybe they'd have a spot for a bad-ass escape artist. Who knows! This is comics, and the possibilities of where this guy could be years down the line is tremendously exciting to me. I love that I'm being given a chance to add a figure to the DCU mythos. It's a tremendous honor, and hopefully Calvin Rose will be around for the long haul."

Tynion offered a little insight into the collaborative process involving him and co-writer *Scott Snyder*. "Well, Scott and I have the whole thing planned in detail, issue-by-issue, through the first year. It's going to be a big epic story, comprised of smaller arcs and one-shots. We've spent a lot of time on the phone talking all these plots and character arcs through, and from those conversations I go out and write the scripts, and then we talk them through before I hand them in. It's a pretty casual process but I think it's led to some awesome comics!"

Will Tynion eventually become ***Talon's*** solo writer? "I believe the plan is for Scott to stick around for the first arc or so as co-plotter and then leave me flying solo as we move into the endgame for the first year," Tynion affirmed, "but none of that has been set in stone just yet."

Tynion is eager to introduce readers to the world of Calvin Rose. "I know that some folks might be a bit skeptical of a spin-off series coming so soon after these characters' introductions, but I *really* think we're going to pull off something special. I really can't wait for people to meet these characters and see what we're planning to do with them."

Talon #0 (JUL120119), a $2.99 comic by *Scott Snyder, James Tynion IV, & Guillem March*, is scheduled for September 26th release. ***Talon #1*** (AUG120173) follows on October 24th.

by Cliff Biggers

Courtesy your friendly neighborhood comics outlet!

COMIC SHOP NEWSARAMA

Produced by *Comic Shop News* in cooperation with *newsarama.com*

Marvel NOW Reveals Fantastic Plans

Last week, *CSN* told you about the new creative teams for ***Fantastic Four*** *(Matt Fraction, Mark Bagley, & Mark Farmer)* and ***FF*** *(Matt Fraction & Michael Allred).* Now we can tell you a little more about the focus of both series, and how they relate.

Fantastic Four has often been referred to as Marvel's "first family," so it's only fitting that the kickoff storyline for ***Fantastic Four's*** Marvel NOW relaunch would follow Reed, Sue, Johnny, and Ben—along with Franklin and Valeria—as *Matt Fraction, Mark Bagley, & Mark Farmer* dispatch them on an epic FantastiCar trip through both time and space.

"Matt and Mark are taking the world's greatest family of science-adventurers on a road trip through every conceivable corner of the Marvel Universe," *Axel Alonso,* Editor In Chief, Marvel Entertainment, said. "It's a long and winding road, filled with friends and foes, both old and new, and challenges unlike anything they've ever faced. What doesn't break the Richards family will only make it stronger."

"***Fantastic Four*** is the cornerstone of the Marvel Universe. It's an honor and privilege to carry on playing in such a fertile field. Some of Marvel's brightest and best did some of their most amazing work with the Richards family and I'm thrilled to get my crack at Marvel's first family," explained Fraction. "We're going to new places, seeing new things, and having all new adventures -- aside from Reed, Sue, and the rest, *everything* else will be brand new."

Marvel will add special Augmented Reality content to each issue of *Fantastic Four*—content that will include cover recaps, behind-the-scenes features, and more added-value experiences—and readers can access this content through Marvel's free AR app available on most smartphone platforms.

While Reed, Sue, Ben, and Johnny are traversing time and space, someone has to watch the home front—and you'll see the "home front" team in action in *Matt Fraction & Michael Allred's* ***FF,*** which features Ant-Man, She-Hulk, Medusa, and Miss Thing, the substitute team handpicked by the Fantastic Four.

"What — you didn't actually think Reed would leave the Baxter Building unprotected during the Richards' family's epic road trip, did you?" *Axel Alonso,* Editor In Chief, Marvel Entertainment asked. "*Someone's* got to guard the fort, and Reed's handpicked replacement team — courtesy of Matt and Mike's unique creative synergy – is truly fantastic in its own right. Facing a relentless siege of villains with bones to pick, this team quickly realizes that the best defense against certain, uhm, Doom, is a good offense."

While three of the team are familiar to Marvel fans, Miss Thing might be less so—and with good reason. Miss Thing is an attractive model with absolutely no super-hero experience, chosen by Johnny Storm to don an armored Thing costume and fill in while the Fantastic Four is away.

"*FF* is a chance to radically remix and reinvent the familiar aspects of the Fantastic Four and the Future Foundation into something all new and wild," explains Fraction. "Standing on its own but interlinked with ***Fantastic Four,*** the all-new FF will be doing things the Fantastic Four could only dream of before."

Like ***Fantastic Four,*** each issue of *FF* will feature augmented reality content accessible through Marvel's AR app.

"Not only does every book with the Marvel NOW! logo feature a new superstar creative team and blockbuster story, but they also come with all-new incentives for our retailer partners," explained David Gabriel, Senior Vice-President of Sales, Marvel Entertainment.. "We want to make sure every comic shop nationwide is fully stocked to meet the high demand we're already seeing for Marvel NOW!"

Both ***Fantastic Four*** and ***FF*** relaunch in November with first issues as a part of the Marvel NOW initiative.

Superman's About to Have a H'el of a Fall

November brings the first New 52 Superman family crossover as "H'el on Earth" runs through ***Superman #14, Superboy #14,*** and ***Supergirl #14,*** pitting the heroes against the maniacal alien H'el, who first appears in October's ***Superman #13.***

The storyline kicks off in ***Superboy #14,*** courtesy of *Tom DeFalco, R.B. Silva, & Rob Lean,* as

Superman's deadly new foe comes after Kon-El.

From there, the story continues into *Mike Johnson & Mahmud Asrar's* ***Supergirl #14*** as Kara finds herself agreeing with H'el's pro-Krypton/anti-Earth plans.

It all culminates in ***Superman #14*** by *Scott Lobdell & Kenneth Rocafort* as the Man of Steel confronts a creature of unknown Kryptonian origin who is not only more powerful than Superman, but also smarter than Supergirl and more lethal than Superboy. How can Superman overcome a threat of this magnitude? Find out on November 14th, when ***Superboy #14*** is scheduled for release, then stay on board for ***Supergirl #14*** on November 21st and ***Superman #14*** on November 28th.

Dredded News

IDW announced their ***Judge Dredd*** creative team several weeks ago, but there is still more Dredd news in the pipeline! They've now revealed an ambitious ***Judge Dredd*** reprint program that will launch with a hardcover collection of ***Judge Dredd: The Complete Brian Bolland,*** reprinting the stories in black and white as they were originally published.

SPIDER-MAN BY STAN LEE & LARRY LIEBER

SPIDER-MAN WAS HUMILIATED TONIGHT BY THE FELONIOUS FUNNYMAN CALLED CLOWN-9...
IS THERE A NEWS CHANNEL THAT DOESN'T HAVE iPHONE PHOTOS OF OUR FIGHT?
YOU'LL HAVE THE LAST LAUGH, PETER.
KICK ME!

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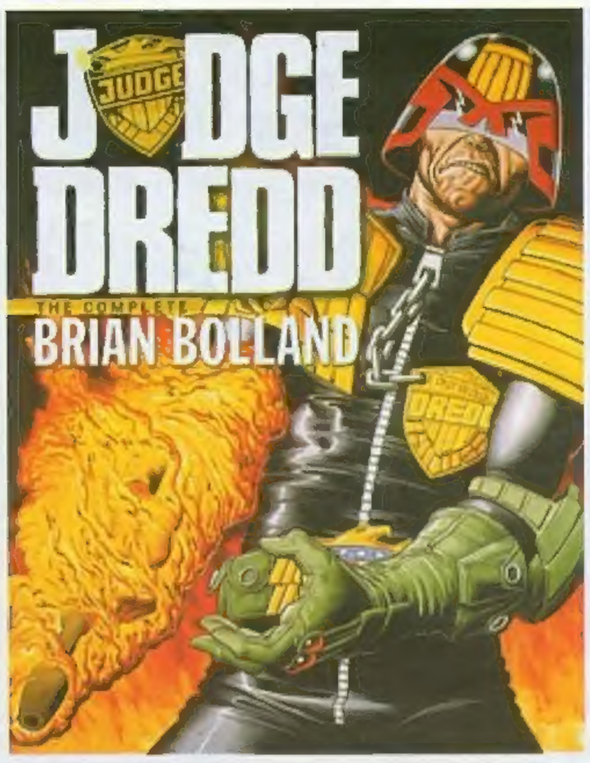


"Fans have been very vocal to us about wanting to first see Bolland's amazing pages in pristine black-and-white," IDW's Chief Creative Officer/Editor-in-Chief and ***Judge Dredd*** editor *Chris Ryall* said. ***"The Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles Ultimate Collections*** presented the original Eastman/Laird stories in gorgeous black and white, and that's what fans have told us they'd like to see here at the start, too. We're happy to give them what they want, especially since *Brian Bolland's* art is so stunning even without color."

That doesn't mean that you'll never see this material in color, however: IDW will reprint many of the Bolland stories in a full-color comics reprint series, just as they've done with ***TMNT Classics*** and ***Classic Doctor Who.*** "So anyone who loved what we did with that material—applying the most modern coloring techniques to these beloved pages—will also be able to re-experience these Dredd tales in vibrant color," Ryall said.

Charlie Kirchoff, who has done such a masterful job re-coloring Doctor Who stories, will tackle Bolland's ***Judge Dredd*** material for the monthly comics. This ongoing 32-page comic series will also see all-new colors applied to classic work by *Carlos Ezquerra* and many other fan-favorite artists.

"I first experienced Judge Dredd in the form of the Eagle Comics reprints from the early '80s, so it'll be fun to pay that forward and let a new generation of readers also experience that material in monthly color comics—albeit with the benefit of 21st century coloring and printing techniques," Ryall said.

Judge Dredd: The Complete Brian Bolland HC is slated for mid-November release.

Everybody's Tolkien About the Hildebrandts

While the prose of *J.R.R. Tolkien* has garnered many millions of fans since the books were first released more than a half-century ago, the art that has accompanied those books has also generated more than a little excitement. While many illustrators have presented their versions of Frodo, Gollum, Gandalf, and the rest of the ***Lord of the Rings*** cast, no artists seemed to have captured the look of the series more perfectly than *Greg & Tim Hildebrandt.* Alas, their ***Lord of the Rings*** art has been long out of print and difficult to find... but Dynamite Entertainment is about to remedy that!

The Tolkien Years of the Brothers Hildebrandt is a large coffee table book that not only collects all the Hildebrandts' Tolkien-related art, but also presents the previously-untold story behind the art and its creation.

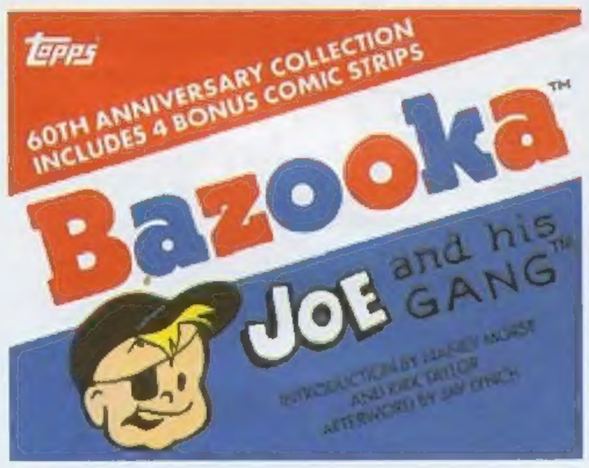
The Tolkien Years of the Brothers Hildebrandt is written by someone who knows the inside story quite well: *Greg Hildebrandt Jr.,* the son of one of the two brothers—and a child model for many of the various hobbits in those paintings. The younger Hildebrandt reminisces about his key role in the development of these calendar paintings and the unique creative ingenuity of his father and uncle.

"From 1975 through most of 1977, my brother, Tim, and I focused primarily on our art for our three J.R.R. Tolkien, Lord of the Rings calendars," *Greg Hildebrandt Sr.* said. "We painted these for Ballantine Books. We were *obsessed* with this art. It consumed us. Since the last calendar was published in 1978, we created additional art based on Tolkien's Ring. This expanded edition of our Tolkien art book is the most comprehensive compilation of that art. The book in itself is a labor of love as it took almost a year to put together and design. If you are a ***Lord of the Rings*** fan or a fan of our art, this is a really great collection—one that I am proud of, and I hope one that you will enjoy for years. This updated and expanded edition includes all new pages with commentary and exclusive material."

Additionally, Dynamite is offering ***The Tolkien Art of the Brothers Hildebrandt 2013 Calendar,*** which features 14 pieces of classic art from the hard-to-find 1976, 1977, and 1978 calendars originally published by Ballantine Books.

CSNsider

•Rock legend *Jimmy Page* (best known as Led Zeppelin's guitarist) will supply the introduction to *William Stout's* ***100 Legends of the Blues,*** due out next spring from Abrams.



•Remember all those Bazooka Joe comic strips that were wrapped around the rock-hard bubble gum of your childhood? Well, they're collected in ***Bazooka Joe & His Gang,*** released to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the strip by *Wesley Morse.* The book not only features every strip (and a few original ones done for this collection), it also features a great deal of background material on Morse, a little-known figure in comics history.

•***Caligaro,*** *Dave McKean's* reworking of the cinema classic ***The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari,*** is on schedule for this spring.

•Hal Jordan may not be around in *Geoff Johns, Doug Mahnke, & Christian Alamy's* ***Green Lantern #14,*** but there's still a Green Lantern in the DCU... and apparently he's not getting along very well with the Justice League, as the cover of ***GL #14*** reveals. "We're going to be meeting a brand new Green Lantern in issue #0, and unlike his predecessors, he's not the sort of guy you'd be expecting to wear the ring. That's putting it mildly," series editor *Matt Idelson* said on DC's blog. "After the events of ***Green Lantern Annual #1,*** Hal Jordan is MIA in a very big way, and our new Green Lantern finds himself in a new role, though his troubled life isn't going to go away in the slightest. In fact it's the things he's notorious for that in large part bring the Justice League into the picture—they want to know what's happened to Hal, and what this guy thinks he's doing filling the role of Green Lantern. It's going to be intense—but also very, *very* cool." Look for it in November.

•*Paul Levitz,* long-time comics writer, former DC publisher, and the author of the

ALL THIS BLING—
AND I MADE A FOOL OUT OF SPIDER-MAN, AS WELL!
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IF CLOWN-9 ATTACKS THE THEATRE AGAIN, PEOPLE MIGHT GET HURT!
I'VE GOT TO LURE HIM SOMEPLACE ELSE!
STAN LEE
LARRY LIEBER
8-15
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RISE OF THE

GREEN LANTERN NEW GUARDIANS #13-16

GREEN LANTERN #13-16

DC COMICS™

THE NEW 52!

Written by GEOFF JOHNS, PETER J. TOMA

Art by DOUG MAHNKE, CAFU, FERNANDO PAS

THIRD ARMY

GREEN LANTERN CORPS #13-16

RED LANTERNS #13-16

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ASI, TONY BEDARD, PETER MILLIGAN
ARIN, AARON KUDER, MIGUEL SEPULVEDA

BEGINNING
OCTOBER
2012

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acclaimed ***75 Years of DC Comics,*** turns his attention to comics pioneer and innovator *Will Eisner* with the hefty ***Art of Will Eisner.***

•*Pete Woods* is filling in a guest artist of ***Aquaman #14,*** joining writer *Geoff Johns* to present the New 52 debut of Ocean Master.

•Archie Comics has confirmed their first intercompany crossover event is slated for spring 2013 release. That's when ***Sonic the Hedgehog*** will cross over with ***Mega Man.*** Archie, Sega (owners of ***Sonic the Hedgehog***) and Capcom (owners of ***Mega Man***) have agreed on a storyline that will involve both ultrapopular videogame characters; the twelve-part storyline will run through four issues each of ***Sonic the Hedgehog, Mega Man,*** and ***Sonic Universe.*** *Ian Flynn,* writer of both ***Sonic*** and ***Mega Man,*** will also write the crossover storyline,which will be illustrated by *Patrick Spaziante.*

•***Nightwing*** gets a guest creative team for two issues as *Tom DeFalco, Andres Guinaldo, & Mark Irwin* take over for a two-part story in ***Nightwing #s 13 & 14.*** The first issue reveals why one of the world's most grave assassins returned to Gotham City. The next issue presents an epic martial arts throw-down between the two.

"When writer *Kyle Higgins* needed a breather to gear up for the Joker's monstrous return in issue #15, I turned to Tom, who pitched in on issue #0," series editor *Brian Cunningham* said on DC's blog ***The Source***. "I'll just come out and say it: Tom ranks among the best ever at writing street-level heroes. And Tom really delivered with his first solo trip to Gotham, following the narrative that Kyle has developed without skipping a beat, and helping to set up the Joker arc. And it felt natural for Tom to continue exploring the character of Lady Shiva, who first appears in ***Nightwing #0***.

"In this story, both Dick and Shiva have grown up some since their first encounter—they're not teenagers anymore—so it'll be fun to see how each fares in a fair fight. Wait, did I say fair fight? Forget it—Shiva remains by far the better fighter, so it's up to Dick to find a way just stay alive!

"On the art side, *Andres Guinaldo* is an on-the-rise artist to be reckoned with, and you can quote me. He's extremely talented and has an idiosyncratic style that's also perfectly suited for mainstream comics. Keep your eye on this guy—he will only get better. You'll see what he's capable of in these two issues, especially after Mark masterfully inks him."

Nightwing #13 is slated for October release, with #14 following in November.

•*Matt Fraction* has confirmed in a ***USA Today*** interview that ***Defenders*** will end with the release of November's #12.

•*Pascal Alixe* is guest artist for ***Red Hood and the Outlaws #14,*** joining writer *Scott Lobdell* for a tale guest-starring Superman.

•*David Lapham* is guest artist on *China Mievelle's* **Dial H #6,** illustrating a stand-alone tale that finds Nelson stuck inside his house after he dials up a politically incorrect hero. "***Dial H*** is one of those offbeat comic concepts like ***The Creeper*** or ***Doom Patrol*** or ***Metal Men*** that every artist and comics lover digs and secretly wants to draw," Lapham said on DC's blog ***The Source***. "It's a crazy trip into your imagination, and I can't wait to dig in to *China Miéville's* offbeat and very funny script and do it justice."

•Jut in case you missed it earlier this month: *Becky Cloonan,* the guest artist for ***Batman #14*** (a *Scott Snyder* tale that focuses on Harper Row) is actually the first woman to ever draw the main ***Batman*** series!

•Marvel has confirmed that *Simon Spurrier & Tan Eng Huat* will oversee the Marvel NOW relaunch of ***X-Men Legacy.*** The new series will focus on Legion, the son of Professor Charles Xavier, as he attempts to put his troubled past behind him and become a vital member of mutantkind. "We've got the son of Professor Charles Xavier slicing, smashing and exploding his name into the history books of mutantkind," Spurrier said.

"Simon and Tan continue the proud tradition of *Mike Carey* and *Christos Gage,* turning their laser-sights on a single X-Men character — the fascinating and complicated Legion," *Axel Alonso,* Editor In Chief, Marvel Entertainment, said. "From a windswept rehabilitation camp for damaged psychics to the horrific sci-fi prison of Legion's own mind, readers will embark on a journey unlike anything they've ever experienced on an X-Men title, as Legion struggles with his tortured family legacy and bumps shoulders with characters that span the X-Men Universe. 'Yours ain't a life where the guy with the biggest pecs wins the day,' Legion is told in issue #1. And truer words were never spoken."

X-Men Legacy #1 is slated for November release.

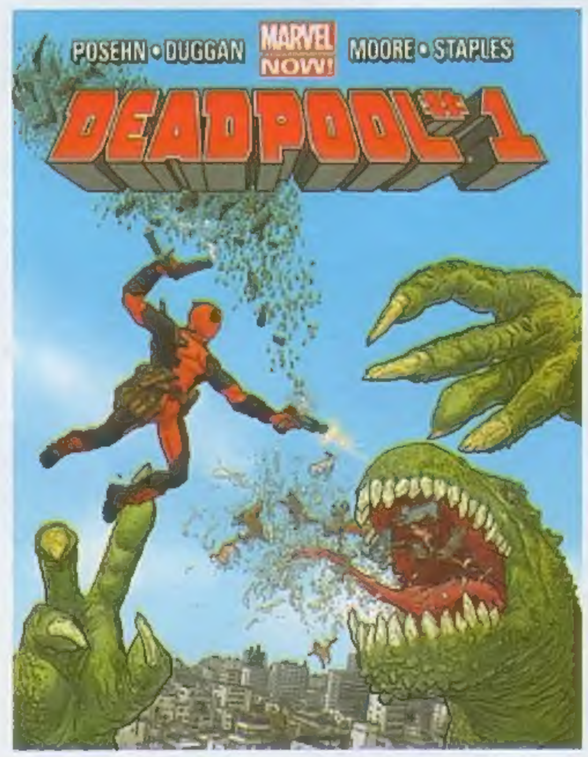
•*Rick Remender & John Romita Jr.* have been tapped for the Marvel NOW relaunch of ***Captain America.*** The new series finds Cap trapped in Dimension Z, an inhospitable world in which he has no country and no allies. "This won't be Cap getting orders and going off to serve SHIELD—this is going to be Steve dealing with threats he sees and at first he's a bit reactionary," Remender said on the Marvel.com site. "He'll be dealing with the day-to-day and doing his normal thing and when our story opens the inciting incident will change his life so dramatically that in ten issues he'll be an entirely different person."

Marvel Editor-in-Chief *Axel Alonso* described the new series as "Indiana Jones high adventure meets Lee & Kirby-flavored science fiction, as Captain America embarks on the adventure of two lifetimes. To survive a gauntlet of challenges so outlandish that only Rick and John could have concocted them, Cap will have to re-examine who he is and what he stands for, and confront an unexamined period in the life of a young man named Steve Rogers."

Captain America #1 is slated for November release.

•Marvel's notorious funny man gets a bit funnier in November as writers and comedians *Brian Posehn & Gerry Duggan* join artist *Tony Moore* for ***Deadpool #1,*** a Marvel NOW relaunch. As the series begins, Washington, D.C. is in turmoil when dead former U.S. Presidents – from George Washington to Gerald Ford – are resurrected, and the heroes of the Marvel Universe can't be the ones to stop them! And you got it—that's when Deadpool enters the picture.

"Deadpool is the scumbag we need. You don't want to see the Avengers take on these



IF I BATTLE HARDY LAUREL AT THE CIRCUS—
SOMEONE IN THE AUDIENCE MIGHT GET HURT!
HOW CAN YOU PREVENT THAT, HONEY?
MADISON SQUARE GARDEN
ALL-STAR
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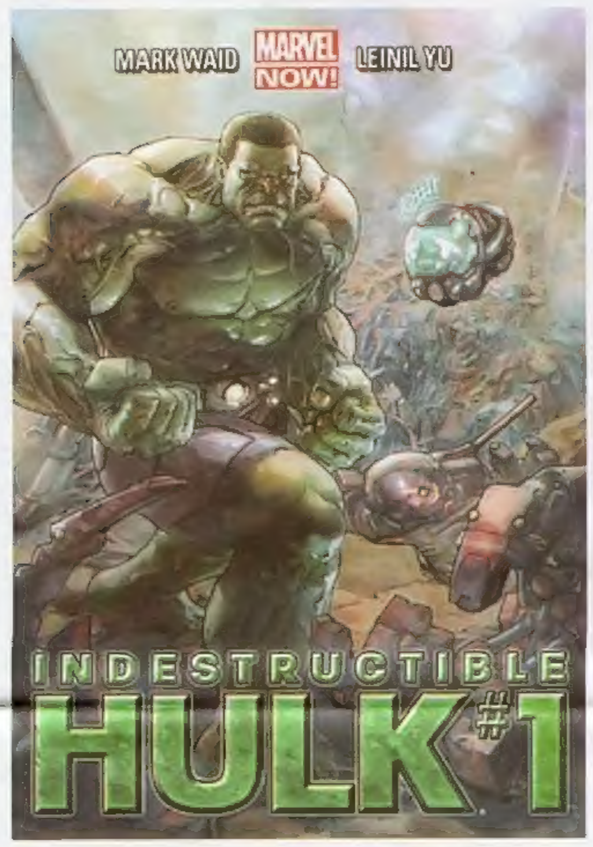
cherished pillars of American history. It becomes a little more palatable when it's Deadpool," Duggan said on the Marvel.com site. "He's there strictly because SHIELD is giving him a pillowcase with a dollar sign on it filled with money."

"All your favorite presidents fighting Deadpool—what's not to like?" Posehn added.

"Brian, Gerry & Tony are cooking up the most insane Deadpool story ever published," Marvel Editor-in-Chief *Axel Alonso* said. "Heroes will be ingested, chimichangas will be digested, dead presidents will be resurrected as the Merc with the Mouth collides with a who's who of Marvel Universe heroes, the world's unluckiest S.H.I.E.L.D. agent, and the most downright nasty zombies Tony Moore has ever drawn."

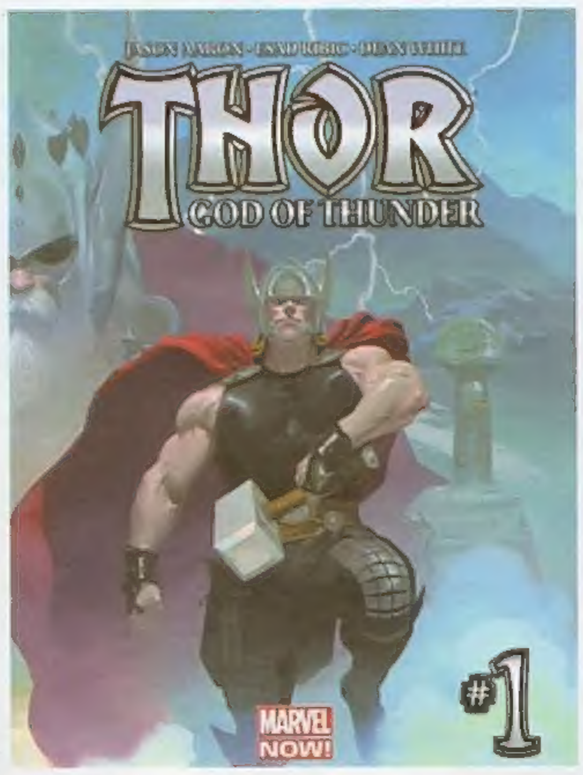


•The Hulk goes from Incredible to Indestructible in November with the release of ***Indestructible Hulk #1*** by *Mark Waid & Leinil Yu*. The first story arc features the revelation of a strange truce in the internal war between Bruce Banner and the Hulk—a truce that leads to the creation of Indestructible Hulk, Agent of SHIELD. "Banner's a changed man. No more stooping under the weight of 'woe is me,' no longer bespectacled, no longer a fashion victim in purple," *Mark Waid* said. "For decades, Banner's felt like he's no more than the Hulk's helpless puppet. Now Banner's *using* Hulk to his own mysterious ends"

"Mark and Leinil's spin on the Hulk mythos will have fans — new and old - exclaiming, 'Why didn't I think of that!?'" Marvel Editor In Chief *Axel Alonso* said. "It's the brute force of the Hulk and the brainpower of Bruce Banner, together at last—but not the way you think..."

•Thor gets a major revamp in November as *Jason Aaron & Esad Ribic* launch ***Thor: God of Thunder #1*** as a part of the Marve NOW initiative. The series follows Thor as he seeks to unravel the gruesome mystery of the God Butcher, a being responsible for the disappearance of the gods of the Marvel Universe. "Jason and Esad have created a Thor story for the ages, and a villain unlike anything our hero has ever faced," Marvel Editor In Chief *Axel Alonso* said. "Combine Jason's trademark storytelling with Esad's majestic visuals and the result is a story of breathtaking scale that is sure to thrill a new generation of readers. This is going to be a book to watch."

"Thor, by definition, demands stories of a grand scale," *Jason Aaron* said. "This story spans millennia—from the Viking Age to the far flung future. And it takes us all across the Marvel Universe as well. From Earth to the far corners of space, and from all new otherworldly cities of gods to an Asgard like we've never seen before, we definitely cover a lot of ground in our initial arc."



•*Kieron Gillen & Greg Land* take Iron Man in a surprising new direction in November's ***Iron Man #1***. When Iron Man's greatest invention becomes his greatest mistake, only Tony Stark can correct things... but he's going to need a new suit of armor if he's going to take on the lethal techno virus Extremis! "The story will focus on him questioning things about himself and trying to find out exactly how the universe ticks, what's this all about and why he does this anyway," Gillen said. "There will be a lot of changes in the armor throughout the series; in the first five issues, there will be a different armor every issue."

"Kieron and Greg are about to take Iron Man on a journey unlike anything he's ever experienced," Marvel Editor In Chief *Axel Alonso* said. "This creative team took the X-Men to the next level, and with Iron Man *they're taking everything you know and* love about the character and putting a spin on it that will have readers buzzing. Wait until you see what the new suit—I mean, *suits*—of armor can do!"

•While there are no story details yet, Marvel has confirmed that *Kelly Sue DeConnick & Stefano Caselli* will do the honors on ***Avengers Assemble*** staring in November. What's not clear is whether this will be a new first issue as a part of the Marvel NOW initiative or a continuation of the current series after *Brian Bendis & Mark Bagley* complete their run in October.

Back to Press

•***Deadpool Kills the Marvel Universe #1 2nd Printing*** (JUN128296), in stores 9/12.
•***Deadpool Kills the Marvel Universe #2 2nd Printing*** (JUN128297), in stores 9/12.

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